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Robert Stephenson, Jr.

Mr. Stansfield Turner  
Director for C.I.A.  
Washington, D.C.

Sir :

Enclosed is a photograph and brief description of a new piece of military equipment, that appeared in today's Pittsburgh Press newspaper. This is clearly a violation of your excellent warning to defense contractors to keep secret what they are producing, as well as the names of the cities in which certain military equipment is manufactured. Once Communist agents in this country learn in what city and by what company in that city certain defense essentials are produced, they can visit that city and find the exact location of the particular plant involved, so they now know where to aim their bombs and missiles so as to destroy the source of our military equipment.

It is not certain whether these defense contractors willingly supply all this information to the news media, or whether news "spies" visit the defense plants, disguised as someone else, just to see what they can learn and photograph.

One of the main reasons why new equipment should not be announced publicly through the newspapers and on the 24 hour news stations on the radio is that often we may have new ideas of things that the Russians or other Communists have not thought to develop. In this case, they may not have thought to devise a system to detect planes flying too low for radar to spot them. However, the imbecile who placed this in the newspaper appears to be doing his best to help our enemies. Something must be done about these crackpots who give away all our ideas. It should be traced to see just who gave this photograph and information to the Pittsburgh Press to publish today, October 4, 1977. Whoever it is who is giving away our ideas should be prosecuted for being an accessory to espionage. It is time to get to grips with this leak problem. As soon as the Communists get hold of this, they will no doubt go into extensive work on developing systems against planes flying too low for radar. Thus, we have lost part of our offense. There seem to be just too many people around who have no capability for strategic thinking; who do not know how much they are giving away. What they call the "free" press is absurd in modern times. There were just not the agents, spies, and competing countries in those days when ancient documents were written. Tell the newspaper wierdos that if they don't like the idea of Pentagon supervision of a national news service, to try to find some other country dumb enough to let them get away with all they can in this country. The free ride, the free everything must stop. The news media take full advantage of our archaic form of government, and say they have "rights" to do anything. This loose control has been part of our downfall. We cannot keep military equipment, locations of manufacturers or anything else of interest to enemies secret. In the typical backward way of civilian government, the only thing they keep secret is our hatred and hostility toward the enemy Communists.

Of course another weakness of our civilian government is a thing that some call "free enterprise". This looseness has given

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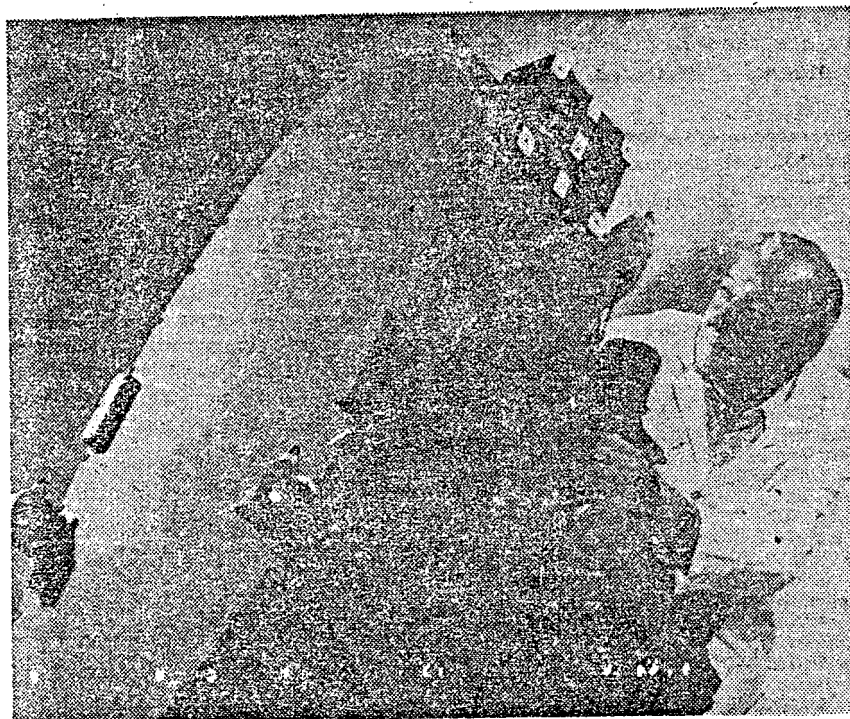
the defense industries too free a hand in conversing with the news media, and also permits many American companies to sell things to Communist countries. I was very concerned to hear that three men from American steel companies had gone with a group of Japanese steelmakers to have talks with Red China about building plants there and sharing technology. Because of the "free enterprise" system, Americans felt free to enterprise to sell to the Russians nuclear secrets, as well as ways to build better steel to build better bombs and missiles. Now they are enterprising to make the same mistake with Red China. The Chinese are a very clever people; they only regard these talks with us as a means to see what they can get out of us. Too much about Americans is spoiled and free; free to help any enemy just to make money. Loose civilian government has become a great liability to the nation. It is a women's trait to think that people are more important than the growth and expansion of the nation.

The defense contractors should be nationalized. They are just too free under "free enterprise" to let ideas slip out. Whether they do it for advertising reasons is uncertain. They have too much exposure to magazines and to newspaper reporters, who should not be allowed to have contact with any of these contractors and subcontractors. When your system is "free" you are just giving too much away. Ideas are valuable in themselves. Once the Russians or other potential opponents get the idea for systems against low-flying aircraft, they can draw up their own blueprints. All they need is the idea. All mail going out of the country should be checked for passing this article or the idea for such a system. The people who print these newspapers don't realize who reads them, or else they just don't care. They have become one of our biggest problems, when they say they have the "freedom" to print anything. If they don't like the proposed necessary restrictions, tell them to try to do the same thing in other, more determined countries, and see how long they last.

No doubt foreign agents carry much of their information across the border to Canada, and thence to Europe. The real problem is that they can easily memorize ideas, once they get into newspapers. This leak of ideas is something that people talk about, but no one has the drive to do anything about it. They don't seem to understand that so many countries continually watch for our new ideas. The way to maintain secrecy is not to tell wierd stories about non-extant neutron bombs. This is too far-fetched. The proper procedure has been outlined. We certainly don't want other countries to get this idea on building defenses against planes flying below radar cover. People in this country just don't seem to understand the importance of keeping such ideas out of the newspapers and away from the flow of public knowledge. Nationalization of both military contractors and the news industry seems the best solution. Otherwise, this type of thing will keep plaguing us. Ideas can be priceless to many countries, who have their agents seeded throughout our cities.

*Robert Stephenson, Jr.*  
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Oct. 4, 1977



**ON THE LOOKOUT** - Technician Bill Clause of Hughes Aircraft Co. of Culver City, Calif., adjusts the first U.S.-built track radar antenna for the U.S. Roland air defense system. It is designed to protect ground troops and airfields against low-level jet air attackers trying to sneak under radar detection.

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